भारतीय पुस्तकों एवं प्रकाशनों के प्रमुख आयातक देश ब्रिटेन, संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका, बंगलादेश, जर्मनी, यू० ए० ई०, श्री लंका, सऊदी अरब, ओमान, नीदरलैंड, नेपाल, जापान, पाकिस्तान, केन्या आदि हैं ।

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारत में पुस्तकों एवं प्रकाशनों के आयात के आंकड़े दिए गये हैं :

(करोड़ रुपये में)

वर्ष	आयात
1989–90	77.95
1990–91	86.70
1991–92	68.48

भारत में पुस्तकों एवं प्रकाशनों का अधिकांश आयात ब्रिटेन, संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका, सिंगापुर, जर्मनी और हांगकांग से किया जाता है ।

स्रोत : रसायन एवं सम्बद्ध उत्पादन निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद् (कैपेक्सिल,) कलकत्ता ।

Agreement between India and European Countries

£3295. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the European Community have entered into a new co-operation agreement recently;

(b) if so, what are details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the European Community has given India a status that it accords to industrialised countries ?

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THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Official level negotiations on a new Cooperation Agreement between India and the EEC have concluded. A draft text is awaiting approval of Government of India and the European Council. The new Agreement seeks to broaden the scope for cooperation to cover a wide range of subjects.

(c) The draft Agreement has been framed in the overall context of the European Community's relations with developing countries.

£Previously Unstarred Question 2686, transferred from 17th March, 1993.

Declaring Tuticorin Port as Free Port

£ £, 3296. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to declare Tuticorin Port as a free port; and

(b) if so, what are the steps being taken to improve the facilities in Tuticorin port to attract more foreign ships ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Free Port Advisory Committee on which inter-ministerial consultation is underway, has recomended the location of the Free Port in Goa. Tuticorin has been suggested only as a suitable site 'or second Free Port on the east coast.

££. Previously Unstarred Question 2839, transferred from 17th March, 1993.